

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 5, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 596

**Introduced by Senator Alpert
(Principal coauthor: Senator Costa)**

February 23, 1999

An act to add Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 11759.20) to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 596, as amended, Alpert. California Volunteer Mentor Partnership Act.

Existing law requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs within the California Health and Human Services Agency to perform various duties in administering programs for the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse.

This bill would enact the California Volunteer Mentor Partnership Act, ~~under which the California Health and Human Services Agency would be the lead agency.~~ *The bill would establish the Office of Youth Development Services to serve as the lead entity for mentoring programs and other youth-development strategies, to provide guidance and assistance to departments who receive state funds for mentoring programs and other youth-serving programs, and to promote volunteer mentor and related programs through*

direct implementation or through contracts with community-based organizations, school districts, the private sector and nonprofit organizations or in cooperation with other state agencies. The bill *also* would ~~require the California Health and Human Services Agency, in collaboration with other state agencies and departments to report to the Legislature, on or before February 1, 2001, on the feasibility of consolidating the grant applications and processes used by individual state agencies funding mentor programs~~ *establish the Governor's Policy Council on Youth Development that would consist of representatives from various state agencies, departments, and boards.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 (commencing with Section
2 11759.20) is added to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health
3 and Safety Code, to read:

4

5 CHAPTER 6. CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEER MENTOR
6 PARTNERSHIP ACT

7

8 11759.20. This chapter shall be known and may be cited
9 as the California Volunteer Mentor Partnership Act.

10 11759.21. (a) The Legislature finds that California's
11 children are growing up under conditions of great stress
12 that are resulting in devastating effects on their
13 development and well-being. Structural changes in
14 society, including the breakdown in the traditional family
15 and erosion of neighborhood community support
16 networks, have taken a toll on their welfare, self-esteem,
17 and academic achievement. While youth struggle with
18 many difficulties, four risk factors stand out: academic
19 failure, substance abuse, involvement in the criminal
20 justice system, and teen pregnancy. To address these
21 challenges, the State of California recognizes quality
22 mentoring as a critical prevention strategy, not as a
23 panacea for the aforementioned problems, but as a

1 cost-effective method of assisting today's at-risk youth to
 2 become productive, contributing members of society.
 3 Research finds that without the caring support, counsel,
 4 and role modeling of more experienced individuals or
 5 exposure to natural support networks, young people are
 6 much more vulnerable to the destructive forces of
 7 apathy, abuse, and neglect. As we acknowledge the
 8 increasing numbers of children who do not have the
 9 benefit of positive relationships, there has been an
 10 increasing recognition of the value of mentoring, an
 11 activity that connects a caring and more experienced
 12 person with a young person *who is* in need of attention
 13 and support and in need of ~~a mentor-rich environment~~
 14 *mentor-rich environments* that would expand the world
 15 of positive adult contacts for youth in their natural
 16 environments. As a way to maximize public resources,
 17 mentoring is both efficient and effective, relying on
 18 volunteers as the core service providers to create
 19 collateral improvements in the lives of youth. The public
 20 investment in the prevention strategy of mentoring has
 21 inspired significant private support at the local level.

22 (b) The complexities of supporting mentoring
 23 organizations requires the coordinated and sustained
 24 support of many private and public sector organizations
 25 to ensure that their services are available to all young
 26 persons who wish to have a mentor. ~~To the maximum~~
 27 ~~extent feasible, quality mentor services should be~~
 28 ~~available in communities throughout California sufficient~~
 29 ~~to meet the needs of each at-risk young person. It is the~~
 30 *To meet the needs of each at-risk young person, mentor*
 31 *services should be available in communities throughout*
 32 *California and mentor-rich environments should be*
 33 *created wherever young people and adults interact on a*
 34 *regular basis. It is the intent of the legislature and the*
 35 *purpose of this chapter to foster a partnership between*
 36 *the public and private sector for the long-term support to*
 37 *of quality mentor programs and mentor-rich*
 38 *environments in which young people can interact on a*
 39 *regular basis with an array of caring adults.*

1 (c) Mentoring California's youth has been carried on
2 by thousands of dedicated volunteers through local
3 mentor organizations and with the very significant
4 contributions of the business community in both time and
5 money. State and local government agencies also operate
6 mentor programs. However, the need far outweighs the
7 current resources. The valuable potential services of
8 many caring adults and older youth continue to go
9 untapped while the waiting list of children in need
10 continues to grow, *and distant youth-adult relationships*
11 *continue to exist where developmental youth-adult*
12 *relationships could flourish.*

13 11759.22. (a) It is the goal of the Legislature that
14 every young person in California shall have access to a
15 quality ~~mentor upon request~~ *mentoring relationship*.
16 This shall be accomplished by sustaining or growing the
17 state's resources under the auspices of the California
18 Volunteer Mentor Partnership Act, to the extent those
19 resources are available. The Legislature recognizes the
20 efforts of state departments who have supported local
21 mentor programs under the California Mentor Initiative,
22 including the State Department of Alcohol and Drug
23 Programs, the California Conservation Corps, the
24 Department of the Youth Authority, the Commission on
25 Improving Life Through Service, the Department of
26 Community Services and Development, the State
27 Department of Education, the State Department of
28 Health Services, the Department of Justice, the *Office of*
29 *the* Secretary for Education, and the Office of Criminal
30 Justice Planning. This base of support shall be sustained
31 or increased predicated upon the performance outcomes
32 in successfully addressing the four risk factors.

33 (b) It is also the goal of the Legislature that
34 consideration be directed towards identifying
35 opportunities for increased private sector investment in
36 the support and expansion of mentoring.

37 ~~11759.23. As used in this chapter:~~

38 (a) ~~"Agency" means the California Health and~~
39 ~~Human Services Agency.~~

40 (b)

1 11759.24. (a) There is hereby created in the
2 executive branch of state government, the Office of
3 Youth Development Services. The office shall consist of
4 individuals who have experience in youth development
5 with mentoring and other youth-serving programs, are
6 familiar with the state process of supporting and
7 expanding those programs at the community level, have
8 the ability to incorporate best practices, and can provide
9 technical assistance.

10 (b) There is hereby created the Governor's Policy
11 Council on Youth Development. The council shall
12 include, but not be limited to, a designee from each of the
13 departments and agencies identified in subdivision (a) of
14 Section 11759.22, a designee from the office of the
15 Attorney General, the California Health and Human
16 Services Agency, the Department of Finance, the State
17 Department of Social Services, the State Department of
18 Mental Health, the California State University, the
19 University of California, the Chancellor's office of the
20 California Community Colleges, and a representative of
21 the Workforce Investment Board. The designees shall be
22 in a management and decisionmaking position within
23 their office or department so that they are able to fully
24 represent their director.

25 11759.26. For purposes of this chapter, the following
26 definitions apply:

27 (a) "At-risk youth" means an individual under 18 years
28 of age whose environment increases their chance of
29 academic failure, alcohol and other drug use,
30 involvement in the criminal justice system, or teen
31 pregnancy.

32 (b) "Council" means the Governor's Policy Council on
33 Youth Development as described in subdivision (b) of
34 Section 11759.24.

35 (c) "Mentoring" means a relationship over a period of
36 time in which caring and concerned adults and older
37 youth provide support, guidance, and help to younger
38 at-risk persons as they go through life.

39 (d) "Mentor-rich environments" are environments
40 that create many opportunities for young people to

1 interact with an array of caring adults and where youth
2 feel respected, ~~connection~~ *connected*, and affirmed.

3 ~~11759.24.—~~

4 (e) “Office” means the Office of Youth Development
5 Services.

6 11759.28. (a) The Legislature finds that direct
7 mentor services, and the support for those services, are
8 provided by hundreds of public and private, state, and
9 local organizations, *and that mentoring principles guide*
10 *youth-adult relationships in many organizational settings.*
11 It also finds a continuing need for effective coordination
12 of these efforts in a manner that will maximize benefit to
13 local programs, *to other youth-serving organizations,*
14 and, consequently, to the youth who rely on their support.

15 ~~(b) The California Health and Human Services~~
16 ~~Agency~~

17 (b) *The Office of Youth Development Services shall*
18 *be the lead coordinating body within state government*
19 ~~and shall provide for mentoring programs and other~~
20 ~~youth-development strategies, such as prevention and~~
21 ~~intervention, and for providing guidance and assistance~~
22 ~~to departments who receive state funds for mentoring~~
23 ~~programs and other youth-serving programs. The agency~~
24 ~~office shall, with the assistance of the Secretary of~~
25 ~~Education, Department of Education, Office of Criminal~~
26 ~~Justice Planning, and Attorney General, and guidance of~~
27 ~~the council,~~ *establish collaborative arrangements and*
28 *coordinating functions among and between these offices*
29 *and departments with the goals to maximize resources,*
30 *share best practices, and increase opportunities for youth.*

31 ~~(c) On or before February 1, 2001, the agency shall~~
32 ~~report to the Legislature on the feasibility of~~
33 ~~consolidating the grant applications and processes used~~
34 ~~by individual state agencies that fund mentor programs.~~

35 ~~11759.25. The Governor shall designate the California~~
36 ~~Health and Human Services Agency as the lead agency~~

37 (c) *One of the first goals of the office and the council*
38 *shall be to develop and implement a data collection*
39 *system for mentor programs that shall include a*
40 *consolidated process for grant applications, methods of*

1 *tracking mentors and mentees, and a uniform evaluation*
2 *process that results in a reduction in paperwork and the*
3 *multiple reports that local programs have to complete.*

4 *11759.30. The Governor shall designate the office, in*
5 *collaboration with the council, as the lead entity in state*
6 *government to nurture and support, until it is no longer*
7 *necessary, a public and private partnership the goal of*
8 *which is to advance and increase the positive role of*
9 *mentoring for young persons. ~~The agency persons and~~*
10 *the application of mentoring principles wherever youth*
11 *and adults interact. The office shall promote the following*
12 *through direct implementation or through contracts with*
13 *qualified community-based organizations, school*
14 *districts, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector*
15 *or in cooperation with other state departments and*
16 *agencies:*

17 (a) The adoption of quality assurance standards by
18 school- and community-based mentor programs.

19 (b) The provision of mentor program technical
20 assistance.

21 (c) *The provision of technical assistance to any*
22 *organization that wishes to improve youth-adult*
23 *relationships.*

24 (d) The provision of a mentor program clearinghouse
25 and library service.

26 ~~(d)~~

27 (e) The preparation and periodic updating of a
28 statewide directory of mentor program services.

29 ~~(e)~~

30 (f) The provision of mentor program referrals to the
31 general public.

32 ~~(f)~~

33 (g) The coordination of the state employee mentor
34 recruitment campaign.

35 ~~(g)~~

36 (h) The development of a coordinated and coherent
37 reporting form and requirements.

38 ~~(h)~~

39 (i) (1) In order to obtain funding appropriated by the
40 Legislature, mentor programs shall have adopted the

1 California Mentor Initiative Quality Assurance Standards
2 and shall provide data regarding mentee outcomes as
3 requested by the state funding agencies consistent with
4 subdivision ~~(g)~~ (h).

5 (2) Adopted in 1997, the Quality Assurance Standards
6 can be found in the State Department of Alcohol and
7 Drug Programs Publication Number 99-1121. The
8 requirements of these standards are summarized as
9 follows:

10 (A) A statement of purpose and a long-range plan.

11 (B) A recruitment plan for both mentors and mentees.

12 (C) An orientation for mentors and mentees.

13 (D) Eligibility screening for mentors and mentees.

14 (E) A readiness and training curriculum for all
15 mentors and mentees.

16 (F) A strategy that matches the provider program's
17 purpose.

18 (G) A monitoring program that includes ongoing
19 assessment.

20 (H) A support, recognition, and retention component,
21 including ongoing peer support, training, and
22 development.

23 (I) Closure steps that include confidential exit
24 interviews.

25 (J) An evaluation process based on an outcome
26 analysis of the mentor program, program criteria, and
27 statement of purpose.

28 ~~(i) (1) The California Health and Human Services~~
29 ~~Agency~~

30 (j) (1) *The office* shall report annually, no later than
31 March 1, to the Senate Select Committee on Family,
32 Child, and Youth Development and the Senate and
33 Assembly Committees on Education. The report shall
34 address both of the following:

35 (A) The progress of and outcomes achieved by the
36 California Volunteer Mentor Partnership Act.

37 (B) The progress in achieving private sector
38 involvement in the support of the California Mentor
39 Initiative and mentor programs.

(2) State agencies participating in the funding of mentor programs shall provide data and cooperate with the agency in the development of the report.

~~11759.26. The agency~~

11759.32. *The office* shall support, promote and periodically update as needed, standards that serve to ensure that mentor programs represent the highest standard of quality, safety, and performance. The quality assurance standards adopted in 1997 by the California Mentor Coalition under the auspices of the California Mentor Initiative are the standards in use today by the state department investors. All state funded quality mentor programs and those funded by the state with federal funds shall adopt the quality assurance standards.

~~11759.27. The agency~~

11759.34. *The office*, along with its public and private partners, shall promote a coherent strategy for directing public support for mentor programs. Consideration shall be given to the following in regards to the public effort:

(a) The extent of existing publicly funded services for support of mentor programs within the state, and within each area of the state, including the numbers and types of persons receiving services.

(b) The extent of service needs of mentor programs and the gap between existing public and private resources available to meet those needs.

(c) The priorities for program development or expansion which shall take into consideration the specific objectives of programs to be developed, amount and sources of funding, timing, and organizations responsible for implementation.